

Nauvoo May 21st 1842

Testimony of Margaret Nyman before the High Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of latter day Saints in the City of Nauvoo.

Some time during the month March last, Chauncy L. Higby came to my Mother's house, early one evening and proposed a walk to a Spelling School, My Sister Maria and myself accompanied him, but changing our design on the way we stopped at Mr Fuller's, during this evening interview he, (as I have since learned) with wicked lies proposed that I should yield to his desires and indulge in Sexual intercourse with him, stating that such intercourse might be freely indulged in, and was no sin, that any respectable female might indulge in Sexual intercourse and there was no sin in it, provided the person so indulging, kept the same to herself, for there could be no sin when there was no account. And most clandestinely with wicked lies persuaded me to yield, by using the name of Joseph Smith, and as I have since learned totally false & unauthorized. and in consequence of those arguments I was influenced to yield to my seducer Chauncy L. Higby.

I further state that ^{I have no personal} ~~I had ever~~ acquainted with Joseph Smith and never heard him teach such doctrines as stated by Chauncy Higby, either directly or indirectly. I heartily repent before God, asking the forgiveness of my Brethren.

Margaret Nyman

County of Hancock }
State of Illinois }
City of Nauvoo }

Nauvoo May 24th 1842

I do wit. Then personally appeared before me

George W. Harris, Clerkman for the
Margaret Nyman, the sign of the above content
City of Nauvoo, & testified under oath
that the above declaration is true

Geo. W. Harris, Clerk

Margaret Nymon
Testimony
C. Higby

Testimony of Matilda Nymon, before the High Council of the Church of Jesus
Christ, of Latter day Saints in the city of Nauvoo, May 21st,
1842 Against Chancy Higby.

During this ~~Spring~~ Chancy Higby kept company with me
from time to time, and as I have since learned wickedly deceitfully
and with lies in his mouth, urged me vehemently to yield to his
desires, that there could be no wrong in having sexual in-
tercourse with any female that would keep the same to her-
self, Most villianously and lyingly stating that he had
been so instructed by Joseph Smith and that there was no
sin where there was no accuser, also vowing he would
Marry me, Not succeeding, he on one occasion brought one in
authority in the Church, who affirmed that such intercourse
was tolerated by the heads of the Church, I have since
found him also to be a lying conspirator against female
virtue & chastity, having never received such teaching from the
heads of the Church, but was at the time partially influenced
to believe, in consequence of the source from whom I received
it, I yielded & became subject to the will of my seduc-
er Chancy Higby. And having since found out
to my satisfaction that a number of wicked men have con-
spired to use the name of Joseph Smith or the heads of the
Church, falsely & wickedly, to enable them to gratify their
lusts, thereby destroying female innocence & virtue.

I repent before God & my brethren and ask forgiveness.

I further testify that I never had any personal acquaintance with
Joseph Smith, nor heard him teach such doctrines as Higby stated
either directly or indirectly. Matilda Nymon

Honach Co. 2. wit: Nauvoo city, May 24, 1842. Then personally appeared
Stat. Illinois before me. Geo. W. Harris - clerk of said city. Matilda
Nymon the signs of this instrument & testified under oath that
the above declaration was true. Geo. W. Harris Secy.

Margaret J. Nym

C. Higby

Testimony of Sarah Miller before the High Council
of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the
city of Nauvoo May 24th 1842. - agent Chauncy
Highy.

Some two or three weeks since, in consequence of
Bro. Joseph Smith's teachings to the singers, I began to be alarmed
concerning myself, & certain teachings, which I had received
from Chauncy Highy. I questioned him about his teaching, for
I was pretty well persuaded from Joseph's public teachings that
Chauncy had been telling falsehood. But Chauncy said that
~~that~~ Joseph ~~had~~ taught as he did through necessity, on
account of the prejudices of the people. & his own family
particularly as they had not become ~~fully~~ believes in the
doctrine. - I then became satisfied that all of Chauncy's
teaching ~~had been false~~ & that he had never been
authorized by any one in authority to make any such
communication to me. Chauncy Highy's teachings & conduct
were as follows. When he first came to my house ^{seen} after
the spirit conference this spring, Darwin Chase was with
Lissa ^{Chase} he commenced joking me about my getting married. &
I wanted to know how long it had been ~~for~~ since my
husband died. - & ~~then~~ soon removed his seat near
me & began his seducing innuendoes by saying it was
no harm to have sexual intercourse with women if they
would keep it to themselves. & continued to urge me to
yield to his desires, & urged me vehemently. & said he &
Joseph were God's friends & he teaches me this doctrine.
& allows me such privileges & there is no harm in
it & Joseph Smith says so. - I told him I did not believe
it & had heard no such teaching from Joseph. He from the stand
but that it was wicked to commit adultery &c. Chauncy said
that did not mean single women, but married women.
I continued to press his instructions & arguments until after
dark, & until I was inclined to believe, for he called God
to witness of the truth, & was so solemn & confident. I
yielded to his temptations, having received the strongest assurance
from him that Joseph approved it. & would uphold me in it.

He also told me that many others were following the same
 course of conduct. As I still had some doubts near
 the close of our interview. I suggested my fear that I
 had done wrong. & should lose the confidence of the Father
 when he assured me that it was right & he would bring
 a witness ~~a witness~~ to confirm what he had taught.
 When he came again William Smith came with him
 to told me that the doctrine which Chauncy Higby had taught
 me was true. & that Joseph believed the doctrine. I still
 had doubts & replied that I had understood that Higby had
 had recently been baptizd. & that Joseph when he confirmed him
 told him to quit all his iniquitous practices. Chauncy
 said it was not for such things that he was
 baptizd for. ^{changing his mind from one course} & William Smith said that he would take
 all the sin to himself. - for there was none in
 it. - before Chauncy left the house he said do you
 think I would be baptizd for such a thing. & then go
 into it so soon again. Chauncy Higby said that it
 would never be known. I told him that it might be told in
 bringing forth. Chauncy said there was no danger ^{& that} Dr. Bennett
 understood it & would come & take it away. if there was any
 thing.

Sarah Miller

Hancock Co } Do wit. Then appeared Sarah Miller the
 State of Illinois }
 City of Danvers - } Sign of the above instrument. I make
 aath that the above declaration, is true
 before me. J. H. Harris J. R.
 Notary Public of Danvers City
 Kansas May 24 1842

Sarah Miller
 Chauncy Higby

Metelcer Nym. C. Higby. John C. Bunt. William Smith S.

Justus Moss. Darwin Shore. taught. -

Margaret Nym says D. Bunt has been at Dover. last July -
John C. Bunt. & Chas. Higby. seduced.

May 28. Fellowship with Doves from Justus Moss
Moreman also says came in & testified that he had
nothing in favor of Chas. Higby. - Chas. wanted I
should testify against Nym. - at Dover. I think his
name was ^{Margaret} John. Nym. - Hugh White.

Metelcer Nym says widow Fuller is guilty of the same
Dr. Bunt was with her. I went to take a
walk. C. Higby bought her there. - She says she
always has been his friend & always will be.
& that there was no harm. & persuaded us
both to submit. - Saw Bunt in the act
with Sir Fuller. - ~~Bunt~~ Married Mrs.
Warren. - I was with C. Higby at the same
time Margaret. -

Miss Marjor = her maid sent of letters -
say from Bunt to the society & signed
she was guilty. - - -

widow Fuller said she had a gold watch sent
to her. by the name of Warren. but James got
it instead of Chas. -

Mrs. Gee and above are have Bunt called
almost every day. - Mrs. Gee would send
her little girl away. till Bunt off -

Chas. Higby is cut off from the Church.

of testimony of Sarah Fuller. before the High Court
of New York. (May 24. 1842)

May 24, 1862

Minutes

1. *Chamaecyparis*
 2. *Juniperus*
 3. *Thuja*
 4. *Podocarpus*
 5. *Sciadopitys*
 6. *Widdowsonia*
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22
Darwin Case

Argued with teaching the Doctrine that it is not
criminal to have illicit intercourse with women.
in Person of Miss Nymon. Matilda. - - - he denied the
Charge - - - taught as I would at any other time.

March 29th 1848

Dr. Hays - - -

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th inst. in relation to the matter of the sale of the land of the late John Hays. I have the honor to inform you that the same has been sold to the highest bidder for the sum of \$1000.00. I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

Chauncey Higbee taught the same doctrine as was taught by Bennett and that Joseph Smith practised such conduct but he did not have it from Joseph but he had it from Dr Bennett. Wm Smith has also been at my house and proposed unlawful connexion but I refused because I had come to the determination to break off such conduct as I saw I was ruining myself,

Dr. Wm Chase has also been at my house sometime last winter made propositions as above but did not urge much - I did not yield to him

L. Simon C. Littlefield has also been at my house - made similar propositions - taught the same doctrines as the above - but did not accomplish his object because I saw I was ruining myself and bringing disgrace upon the church. This happened on the last of January or first of February. He came several times in the space of a few weeks.

Joel Miles has also been at my house - made propositions similar, and taught the same doctrine and accomplished his object - sometime in January came several times but has not been lately.

About the middle of July Thatcher was at my house - came twice - has not been since.

I suppose Dr Bennett has gained his object 10 or 12 times

— C. Higbee ————— 5 or 6 times

— Joel Miles ————— 2 times

John C. Bennett was the first man that seduced me - no man ever made the attempt before him. ~~He promised me much that I would not marry - and proposed if I would grant his desires he would furnish me with food &c~~
C. Higbee also promised to keep me and supply me with food

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Testimony of Catherine ^{Mason} ~~Holler~~ before the High Council of
the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in the City
of Nauvoo May 25th 1842 - against John C. Bennett & others

Nearly a year ago I became acquainted with John C. Bennett, after
visiting twice and on the third time he proposed unlawful intercourse
being about one week after first acquaintance. He said he wished his
desires granted I told him it was contrary to my feelings he answered there
was others in higher standing than I was who would conduct in
that way, and there was no harm in it. He said there should be no sin
upon me if there was any sin it should come upon himself. I told
him I was not guilty of such conduct and thought it would bring a disgrace
on the church. If I should become pregnant he said he would attend to
that. I understood that he would give medicine to prevent it. Sometimes

I became alarmed at my conquest and told him I did not wish his
last winter he told me that the heads of the church were conducting
company any longer ^{and appeared Joseph's name}
in that manner, ~~as he thought he had as good right as they had~~ I think
this happened last October, He said that Joseph taught and conducted in the
same manner. He also was with Mrs. Shindler now living beyond Ramus
and also with the two Misses Symans ~~He said~~. I do not know that he kept
company with any others neither did I hear him say he had.

I have also had unlawful connexion with Chauncy, Higbee and
George M. Thatcher. C. Higbee taught the same doctrine as was
taught by Bennett and that Joseph Smith taught and practiced
those things, but he stated that he did not have it from Joseph
but he had his information from Dr. John C. Bennett. The Chauncy L.
Higbee has gained his object about 5 or 6 times.

~~He has also been at my house on the 22nd of last month~~
~~being the day I was married and proposed unlawful connexions but~~
~~I refused and told him that it was contrary to the teachings of Joseph~~
~~on the stand. He answered that Joseph was obliged to teach to the contrary~~
~~on the stand to keep down prejudice and keep peace at home~~
~~He (Mr. Smith) insisted very much that I should not marry and proposed to supply me with food~~
~~if I would remain unmarried and grant his requests - Chauncy Higbee also made~~
~~propositions to keep me with food if I would submit to his designs~~

Catherine Mason
vs. J. C. Bennett & others.

Darwin Chase has also been at my house - sometime last winter as made propositions for unlawful connexion - he did not urge much - I did not yield to him.

L. Simon B. Littlefield has also been at my house - and made similar propositions and taught the same doctrines as those already referred to - He did not gain his designs - because I saw I was ruining myself, and bringing disgrace upon the church. This took place about the last of January or first of February. He came several times in the space of a few weeks.

Joel S. Miles has also been at my house and made propositions for unlawful intercourse and taught similar doctrine to that taught by Bennett. He accomplished his designs twice. He came several times but has not been lately. ^{His} above transactions took place sometime in January.

George W. Thatcher has been at my house twice, sometime in the middle of February but not since that time - he ^{equally} had intercourse with me twice - he said the heads of the church were teaching and practicing such such things and he had as good rights as they had.

Sometime about a year ago last ^{summer} as I have been informed, ^{Mrs. Brown} went to the house of ~~Mrs. Brown~~ but the door was fast - I thought they were not at home but happening to look over the door where a clapboard was off I saw Dr J. C. Bennett and Mrs Brown sitting very close together.

John C. Bennett was the first man that seduced me - no man ever made the attempt before him.

J. B. Backenstos has also been at my house - was introduced by Chancy Higby - made requests similar as above - gave me two dollars.

He accomplished his designs only once - has been there two or three times since - This happened in the fore part of the winter.

~~I have also had unlawful connexion with Chancy Higby George W. Thatcher.~~

~~J. B. Thatcher was with me sometime in February but not since.~~

Testimony of Catherine Fuller -

L. C. Littlefield had been at my house, and made propositions to have unlawful intercourse - he urged ~~hard~~ - this was about the last of January or first of February - had been 3 or 4 times in course of 2 or 3 weeks - he urged doctrine such as the following - namely - that there was no harm in having unlawful intercourse - that others conducted in the same way - there should be no sin come upon her - if there was any it should come upon himself, - that the heads of the church were practicing the same things - named Joseph Smith - he urged this doctrine - was there about the first of February about 8 in the evening

Caroline Butler - went & rapped at Widow Fullers door - could not gain admittance - a sister had been before us and between the time that sister was there and the time we went a man was seen to go into the house.

This was on the Wednesday - On the Saturday after L. C. Littlefield & C. Higby summoned us before Squire Hills for rapping at the door &c - who bound us to keep the peace 3 months.

On motion by Pres^r Marks. it was resolved by the Council that L. C. Littlefield be expelled from the church until he makes full satisfaction

Summary
of
testimony against
L. C. Littlefield

Catherine Fuller. States that Darwin Chase had been at her house sometime in winter - made proposals to have unlawful intercourse - said it was no harm.

Melinda Lewis - States that she once saw Darwin Chase and another in Widow Fullers house - at night.

Caroline Butler - has frequently seen Darwin Chase go to Widow Fullers.

Maria Champlin - saw Chase with Littlefield ~~one week~~ ~~ago~~ last sabbath - came to Kingsleys about 5 o'clock - about dusk rode out with one of the Miss Kingsleys to the prairie - returned about 10 o'clock - some time after L.C. Littlefield had returned - tarried about one hour after - said that Joseph tried to persuade men to act wickedly and then exposed them.

John Mechem - saw Darwin Chase with L.C. Littlefield, come to Kingsleys last sabbath - on foot - spoke concerning terrible things going on in Nauvoo -

Darwin Chase was rebuked, after he had partially confessed. Moved by the Past that Bro Chase detain
be standing &c.

Polly Mearns

Littletield Chase - come about as set, to Bro Cham-
plins. Sunday week. Staid till 10 o'clock
week last Sunday ated till.

Bro Champlin knows nothing material more than stated
come 4 or 5 o'clock - about dusk tolld bail Levy ride -

Summary
of
Testimony against
Darwin Chase

Catherine Fuller - Joel S. Miles has been at my house
sometime in January - made propositions of illicit
intercourse - said there was no harm in it - that the
heads of the church were practising such things &c
accomplished his designs twice - had not been at her house
for the past three weeks

Caroline Butler - has seen Joel S. Miles go there.

Summary
of
Testimony against
Sol S. Mills

walked out on the prairie - did not see you after you had been gone a few minutes - could not see far - there is two houses - more a great ways off - gone about an hour - did not hear you say where you was gone. If you were out on prairie people could see - did not think it was prudent - they said they had been acquaintances formerly that you had married a sister in law. Saw you last Sunday - rode on horseback started first to the woods - was gone a few minutes probably 10 returned & went to prairie - there are houses in sight - think you were gone until about 10 o'clock. There is one house on the way to the prairie - Rachel said you told her of some of the proceedings carried on in the city - and said you told her Joseph disapproved it - said nothing about Chase - did not think any thing about your conduct being bad when you came in - when you went out on the prairie I did.

Champlin - I thought they behaved well till after they started with the intention of taking a ride - rode two on a horse - a man and woman on each horse, from the statement of Rachel to me respecting what L. had said - she drew the conclusion that there was wickedness practised in Nauvoo and that Joseph put men up to it and then took means to discover it and disapprove it. The girl first proposed to ride out, that Joseph was taking means to find out who was carrying on this and cause men to make it known - Joseph would persuade men to do unlawful act and then expose them - this was what you said to her - Rachel Kingsleys girls did not bear a good character in Pa. nor in Mo.

Not acquainted with Kingsleys girls

Testimony of Melinda Lewis before the High Council of the Church of Jesus

I saw Darwin Chase at Widow Fullers and that is all that ~~she~~ I know about him. I do not know Joel S. Miles, don't know that I ever heard his name before. I am not acquainted with Widow Fullers house at all. I saw Chancey Higby at Widow Fullers frequently just before dark and one time I went in and saw him there I thought he had no right to be there. I saw Chase there saw Jos. C. Bennett there last summer. Saw several strangers there did not know them did not see Backenstor there - I have seen L. C. Littlefield go over the fence and she and him stand and talk a good many times - have never seen Wm Smith there - do not know that she does not know of any other men visiting there - heard reports of Widow Miller know nothing of Clotheis Caroline Butler

Caroline Butler

I have frequently seen Darwin Chase & Chancey Higby go to Widow Fullers frequently - have seen Joel S. Miles go there - have seen L. C. Littlefield go in there - A man from Carthage was there a few weeks ago - (Barripi's wife's testimony) Barripi's wife was there - did not tell his name - was a widower - two nights before she was married Barripi's wife said they sat up pretty much all night. Do not know Justus Morse nor - Rhindles wife was frequently with widow Fuller - Nymans girl was frequently there, don't know any particulars

Ellen Edwards - Lives on the same block with Caroline Butler - about 1/4 mile from Fullers not acquainted with Darwin Chase nor Joel S. Miles went in without knocking as she frequently did, went to bring about in one night and saw four men there one was Chancey Higby - saw ^{she} no improper conduct - new years week - don't know Justus Morse

I know J. C. Bennett - never saw him there - not acquainted with
clothes only one of the girls - seen her at the meeting several times - not
acquainted with Lheis - am acquainted with Mary and Sigmund
don't know where they live - I live at my father's - never heard Margaret
say any thing about Bennett or Higher -

Mary Hardman - Not much acquainted with widows Fuller
have seen Darwin Chase - not acquainted with J. S. Miles, acquainted
with J. C. Bennett - went with Ellen Edwards to widow Fullers
saw Chancy Higher & Darwin Chase - did not know the others

Melinda Lewis

I am very suspicious of Mrs Barriß but do not know any thing
positive - is now working on the island with a man who is not
her husband - have seen them frequently walking together
his name is Richard Sheldon - she is frequently visiting with
widow Fuller and carries all night - her husband is sick
Sheldon is a single man - and is at work for Barriß

I and sister Lewis went one night (Wednesday) to sister Fullers and
knocked at the door - she would not admit us in - we felt grieved
because we knew our husbands were supplying her with fuel &c
we talked to her - somewhat aggravating - but for her good - pulled
a curtain sideways, that was hanging over a crack in the door
~~a sister~~ had been before us and knocked at the door - could not gain
admittance - and soon after a man was seen to go into the house
on the Saturday after Chancy Higher & Lignar C. Littlefield had as
before again Miles for knocking at the door &c - he bound us over
to keep the peace for three months. time is out tomorrow -
said it was her custom to not open the door when she had company
she did not want any one to know who she kept company with

C. Butler testified the same with regard to sister Barriß and said that
was the reason they had objected to her becoming a member of the Female
relief society

Widow ~~Father~~ or Warren - against Darwin Chase
Don't know what she means
if it was not for evil,
for - came in sat down by the side
of me. began to behave indecent. I told
him to behave himself. He said there was
no harm in it - came with Chauncy High
Gives - in the evening - laid his hands on me
in an unwarrantable manner - Chas. touched
each other. put his hands on me. I thought
by his words, thinks he desired or intended
unlawful intercourse - walked to my home
with sister Stephen. from meeting

Motilda Nymon Darwin Chase prepared to have
illicit intercourse with me. but did not carry it
out. taught the same doctrine as others but
did not use the name of Joseph.

Before High Council. May 29 1842 }

David Miller
Gutter
against Davison

Chore

The High Court of Justice
2nd Dec 1853